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## Ink

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# Ink

*after Terrance Hayes*

This page. This print. This black. This brown.  
This black. This ink. This name. This land.  
This mouth / in print. This cry / in the box  
and the shadow in flames where I stood. This  
fire is not my name, this name is not my box.  
How often must a word be said? How dark  
must a letter be typed? Typed like that,  
like this. This stanza, this color. These tracks. How,  
like that / or like the knuckle bone, the tooth.  
This mouth. This ink. This ink in the mouth.  
This print. This poem in a box, this empty box,  
this shoe / that foot / this mouth in a box.  
This mouth in a mouth. That foot in the flame.  
Typed like a last name, typed like / this body  
of ink. How deep must the ink sink? How long  
will the touch stain? Blood in the mouth. Blood  
on the map. Map of a land. Name in ink. Ink  
in the blood. Black in the name. Name in print.  
Light in the box / light / in the mouth. Mouth  
on the flame. Flame in a box. Box on the mouth.  
Mouth on a map. Map over flame. Flame under  
skin. Burns on the skin. Burns on the land. Burns  
on the map typed like the name on / a box.  
Typed like burns on the skin, typed like this.